UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE NASHVILLE DIVISION

STAR NEWS DIGITAL MEDIA, INC., MICHAEL PATRICK LEAHY, and MATTHEW D. KITTLE,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 3:23-cv-00467 Judge Aleta A. Trauger

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,

Defendant.

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL PATRICK LEAHY

- I, Michael Patrick Leahy, declare under the penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:
 - 1. I am a plaintiff in this action.
- 2. I am the CEO, Editor-in-Chief, and majority owner of Star News Digital Media, Inc., which owns and operates a family of state-focused conservative news sites including The Tennessee Star.
- 3. On the morning of November 6, 2023, I became aware that conservative talk show host Steven Crowder claimed to have come into possession of three pages of Audrey Hale's manifesto. The original story was published here: https://www.louderwithcrowder.com/nashville-shooters-manifesto.
- 4. Attached are the three images making up the leaked pages of the manifesto.

- 5. Shortly thereafter, on the morning of November 6, I published a story about the leak. In this story, we reported that "sources in the Tennessee General Assembly who were allowed to view the Covenant Killer Manifesto by the Metro Nashville Police Department have confirmed to The Tennessee Star that the documents released by Steven Crowder on Monday morning, which he purports to be part of Covenant killer Audrey Elizabeth Hale's manifesto, are indeed part of the documents obtained by MNPD during their investigation, and were authentically written Hale." This available here: by is story https://tennesseestar.com/justice/sources-confirm-docs-leaked-by-crowder-areauthentic-covenant-killer-writings-mnpd-investigating/tpappert/2023/11/06/.
- 6. After I published my story, on the afternoon of November 6, the Metro Nashville Police Department released a statement refusing to confirm that the images were authentic. Instead, the department merely stated that the images "are not MNPD crime scene images." The full MNPD statement is available here: https://www.nashville.gov/departments/police/news/mnpd-statement-concerning-line-photograph-dissemination.
- 7. The images of the leaked documents are a portion of the documents that I requested from FBI as part of my Freedom of Information Act request on April 20, 2023, which is the basis for this lawsuit.

Under the penalty of perjury, the foregoing statements are true and correct.

Dated: November 6, 2023 /s/ Michael Patrick Leahy
Michael Patrick Leahy





